

Liberty is the philosophy that guided Constantino Brumidi's hand as it fired his imagination and inspired his creations in our nation's Capital. Imagine what he would think if he could walk these corridors today. He would see that his beautiful work has stood the test of time, especially after being cleaned up after the accumulated lamp smoke. He would know of the appreciation and admiration of countless visitors from our shores and around the world. He would see that his art continues to thrill the millions who flock here every year. I believe he would be both proud and humbled to be the center of such attention.

Throughout the Capitol, each careful stroke of Brumidi's brush will continue to remind us that we are blessed and truly fortunate to live in this land of promise and opportunity.

Now it is only fitting that the Congress of the United States of America should bestow on Constantino Brumidi the nation's highest civilian honor—the Congressional Gold Medal—which incidentally is to be permanently displayed in the Capitol. It will be the only one displayed in the Capitol, and will give people an opportunity to see what a Congressional Gold medal looks like.

And now I would like to introduce my colleague and fellow Italian-American, Senator Pat Leahy of Vermont, who served since 1974, and if you check his left lapel, he is wearing one of the highest awards that Italy can give to a son of Italy. He was one of the original sponsors on my Senate Constantino Brumidi bill and helped me gather every single signature to support this bill. Senator LEAHY is the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and is a senior member of both the Agriculture and Appropriations Committee. I give you my fellow Italian, Senator Pat Leahy.

CPSIA ANNIVERSARY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, few states appreciate the importance of outdoor recreation the way we do in Minnesota—whether it is cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, fishing, hiking or off-roading, these activities are more than just hobbies for us—they are a way of life and they are woven into the fabric of our economy. That is why today I rise to commemorate the 1-year anniversary of the passage of the lead standard exemptions for youth all-terrain vehicles.

Minnesota is home to many strong recreational product manufacturers that provide jobs and have helped move our economy forward during these difficult times. Our economy doesn't hinge on churning money around Wall Street, it hinges on building things and the motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle industry is a shining example of that. This industry is not just about recreation—it is about jobs, it is about manufacturing, and it is about preserving a key part of our culture and economy.

I supported the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act when it passed in 2008 because it addressed serious safety concerns about lead in children's toys. But when we have legislation as detailed and sweeping as the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, certain adjustments and clarifications sometimes need to be made, as we saw with the lead limits for youth all-terrain vehicles. Simply

put, children's off-road vehicles were never supposed to be subject to requirements in the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act.

The law was designed to protect our kids, but by banning youth-sized all-terrain vehicles children were put at risk because they started riding oversized adult vehicles that don't take the same considerations as a model meant to accommodate children. Once it became clear that the Consumer Product Safety Commission was going to hold youth all-terrain vehicles to the new lead requirements, I began working to find a solution to the problem.

That is why I pushed to pass the amendments to the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act last year to exempt youth all-terrain vehicles from lead standards. August 12th will be the 1-year anniversary of enactment of these amendments to Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act into law.

I would like to commemorate the 1-year anniversary of passage of these amendments to Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act that help protect our children and ensure they enjoy the outdoors for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO TOM SULLIVAN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the exceptional leadership and dedication of my deputy chief of staff Tom Sullivan, who has been with me since my first days in the Senate and will soon be leaving to accept a senior adviser role at the U.S. State Department.

To say that Tom will be missed would be an understatement. Over the last 6 years, he has distinguished himself as an invaluable member of my staff, rising through the ranks and filling many key roles along the way. He started out as a legislative assistant, but it wasn't long before he was serving as my deputy legislative director and, eventually, my deputy chief of staff.

In many ways you could call Tom the nerve center of my office—the utility player who can step in and perform virtually any task that is asked of him, regardless of whether it is press strategy or scheduling or legislative analysis. No policy was ever too complex for him, no assignment too daunting, no challenge too thorny.

Tom's versatility is especially apparent in his knowledge of policy, which spans the full spectrum of State and Federal issues. He came to my office with a background in foreign relations but quickly became an expert in everything from energy to technology to health care, mastering and remembering even the most minute of details without losing sight of the forest for the trees. That is a rare talent, and Tom has it in spades.

Mr. President, as you know, Senate offices often become like their own little family units. In the last 6 years, Tom Sullivan has become an esteemed member of the Klobuchar family, and

he will be sorely missed—not just for his skill and expertise but for his composure, kindness, and unflappable good nature. We wish Tom well in his new position at the State Department and know that we can expect to see great things from him as he begins a new and exciting journey in public service.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the importance of passing the Violence Against Women Act, and reauthorizing this critical funding for survivors of domestic violence. We have heard about the protections the Senate version offers that the House does not, to women on college campuses, to women on tribal lands, to LGBT victims, and to immigrants. It is important to remember all of the other programs supported by this important legislation.

On this day, when preventive health care finally becomes available to 47 million women, including free domestic violence screening and counseling, it is worth taking a look at how domestic violence impacts healthcare for women and families in this country.

According to a study by the Centers for Disease Control, the average cost of health care services for women is more than twice the average cost for men, and this is largely due to the costs and impact of domestic violence.

The CDC estimates the direct health care costs associated with domestic violence to be around \$4.1 billion every year. And we know this is a conservative estimate, because many victims never come forward.

But we have a proven tool in this fight, and that is the protections in the Violence Against Women Act. Since the bill first went into effect in 1994, reporting has increased by 51 percent according to the Department of Justice. The FBI reports that the number of women killed by an intimate partner has decreased by 34 percent. And VAWA saved \$12.6 billion in its first 7 years alone.

It is not just that women are safer because of VAWA, our economy also improves when domestic violence is successfully prevented, because fewer women are going to the emergency rooms, missing work, or deciding they cannot care for their children.

I have had a chance to visit several crisis centers in New Hampshire who benefit directly from VAWA funding. Most recently, I visited the Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention in Keene, and had a chance to speak with caseworkers and survivors. I spoke with two women who told me that when they decided it was time to leave their abuser, they had no place else to go.

And I asked them, "What would have happened if this center wasn't here?"

"My husband would have killed me," replied one woman.

This is why we need to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. This